

**California State Department of Social Services
ICWA Workgroup**

**CDSS Headquarters, Room 235/237
Sacramento, CA 95814**

May 18, 2010

Minutes

- **Welcome/Introductions.** The previous meeting's minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
- **Administrative Office of the Courts Report.** Ann Gilmour, Attorney, Administrative Office of the Courts, presented a report. Ann highlighted some of the work that they are doing with the Northern California Tribal Courts Coalition, such as adapting and unlocking some of the Judicial Council forms. Also, the coalition has an Office of Violence Against Women grant to create access centers in their tribal courts. The AOC is working with them on a program they've developed called Domestic Abuse Self-Help (DASH), which is a software program for the domestic violence court process, preparation of forms and declarations, etc. Participants of self-help centers can generate this paperwork and email it to an attorney that can review the information, makes calls, and otherwise serve these communities remotely. This will assist tribal communities greatly, and it can be adapted for interested legal services programs for use with their tribal clients.

The AOC has conducted probation trainings in San Jose and Sacramento Counties. They have also conducted recent social services trainings in Del Norte County, Redding and Crescent City where they have incorporated tribal customary adoption (TCA) information, but have not conducted any specific TCA trainings.

Beyond the Bench is scheduled for June 3-4, 2010. The AOC is organizing three sessions, two of which are on Active Efforts Curriculum and Tribal Customary Adoption (Nicolle Larkins, Nancy Currie & Kimberly Cluff will present—this will be filmed).

Shared Vision (curriculum development firm) consulted with tribal reps, AOC and Anne Smith to develop the curriculum with input from the larger group. Future modules will include evidentiary issues, preserving issues for appeal, and others.

The AOC sent a Request for Proposal (RFP) for curriculum development for tribal advocates on family violence issues, directed at helping tribal advocates navigate the state court system.

Vida Castaneda (AOC) has been working with BACAIR and Casey Collaborative. They have been working since their Dec 21st meeting where they had the tribal court/state court meeting that they reported on earlier. They have continued to work with what they

call the informal coalition of tribal court judges and state court judges. They have had discussions which focus on areas of mutual concern, such as how to move forward on full faith and credit for tribal court orders. The next step is for this coalition to be formalized by the Chief Justice appointing the various members of the coalition to serve, and they're planning a meeting of this coalition for June 30, 2010. The press release announcing the appointment of this coalition is expected any day now.

TCA rules and forms were approved at the Judicial Council's meeting on April 23, 2010, and will be effective July 1, 2010. Also revising job aids to incorporate the requirements of the TCA bill.

- **Legislative Update.** Nancy Currie, Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, presented a report. AB 2418, age 18-21 foster care bill to continue to cover dependent children to keep them identified as Indian children. The bill has passed the Assembly without any issues. Seems to be moving forward with support. Kathy Watson has been working on AB 12. TCA (AB 1325): moving forward, presented for NICWA, New Mexico ICWA Conference, Riverside County Tribal Alliance, CILS Conference, and Tribal Courts Conference. There has been lots of interest around the state in TCA. Soboba's web person is no longer with the tribe, so Tribal STAR has offered to put the TCA training information on their website for folks to access.
- **Subcommittee Updates.**
 - **AB 1325 Implementation.** Nicolle Larkins presented a report. Nicolle asked the group to forward to her any questions regarding TCA that may come up while participating in training. That information will assist with the preparation of the comprehensive All County Letter (ACL) that CDSS' Permanency Policy Bureau (PPB) is working on. This ACL will provide more detail as to the tribal customary adoption (TCA) process. Lee Ann added that the ACL will be the basis for the emergency regulations authorized by the bill, as well as the basis for the TCA training. The PPB is concurrently working on these regulations. The target completion date for the ACL is one week before July 1. They are anticipating that the forms will be ready around the same time. The emergency regulations, however, will not be ready by July 1.
 - **Data Committee.** Lee Ann Kelly informed the workgroup that CWS/CMS is being modified to accommodate TCA. A special projects code will be used by county and state social workers in CWS/CMS to allow workers to filter through the many cases and locate the ones being considered for TCA. Also, a System Change Request (SCR) has been submitted to be able to improve the data within CWS/CMS, as well as modify the system to do TCA. This change may include a field and a drop-down menu to identify TCA-specific information. The SCRs can take approximately two years before the changes are actually implemented, but the request is in the queue.
 - **ICWA Training Subcommittee.** The Advanced Curriculum for County Social Workers is moving along. CalSWEC has been assisting with the development of the curriculum, as well as with online tools to assist ICWA advocates and social workers with the process. CDSS will be conducting a workshop at the upcoming

ICWA Conference in Pala on the training needs, and is hoping to gather some feedback from attendees as to what tribal social workers and advocates feel they need for training. Theresa Sam asked if a tribal rep sits on CalSWEC. Susan Turner (Kings County) mentioned that the Statewide Training and Education Committee (STEC) representatives, under CalSWEC, include: Loleta Garfield, State ICWA Workgroup rep; and Matthew West, central rep. There was no known ICWA representative for the southern region of the state.

- **Expert Witness Subcommittee.** Lee Ann Kelly presented this update. An All County Information Notice (ACIN) was released April 29, 2010 (# I-40-10). An email was recently sent to the workgroup with the ACIN attached. The goal is that counties would pass the information on to their expert witnesses, county counsels, etc. CDSS has already received positive feedback from some of the county counsels that have received the ACIN.
- **17th Annual Statewide ICWA Conference.** Nancy Currie presented this update. The conference will be held June 21-22, 2010 at the Pala Casino Resort and Spa. To date, there are already 100 people registered for the conference. They are working to extend the hold date for the block of hotel rooms. Workshops are being planned. The theme for the conference is "Indian Child Welfare Today's World". There is no fee to attend this conference.
- **Family Development Matrix/Pathways.** Liz DeRouen presented this report. Jerry Endres, Director of the FDM/ Pathway Project and the Institute for Community Collaborative Studies within the California State University at Monterey Bay, contracted with several family support agencies throughout California to use the FDM model software system for differential response which is designed to assess at-risk families to identify strengths and concerns, plan a family-directed empowerment strategy with interventions, and measure the impact of contributions from both the family and worker toward achieving family progress across a core set of measurement outcomes. Jerry contacted Liz' Indian Child and Family Preservation Program (ICFPP), as well as the Lake County tribes, with regard to utilizing the FDM software. The Lake County tribes began using it last year, but the ICFPP's program is not set to go live until June 1, 2010. This project focuses more on preservation of the family, and then intervention if needed. It engages families and asks what they need to be successful.
- **Other Issues/Announcements.**
 - Angela Medrano reported that California Indian Legal Services (CILS) has completed its Bench Guide. Publication date is unknown, but coming soon. Also coming soon is a guide book for tribal social workers/ICWA advocates.
 - Heather Zenone reported that Indian Dispute Resolution Services (IDRS) is hosting the Indian Foster Youth Academy, July 12-17, 2010. She distributed a flyer to the workgroup and will forward more information via email.
 - Ann Gilmour reported on the Active Efforts Curriculum. The Active Efforts Curriculum was previously circulated via email to the ICWA Workgroup. The AOC has developed the curriculum, which consists of a PowerPoint, the Competencies

and Learning Objectives, Suggested Lesson Plan, Trainers Guide and Trainees Guide, and a video. The video includes clips featuring Judges Thorne and Abinanti that depict experiences and historical references. Ann asked the workgroup who would be appropriate representatives for tribes to help review the advanced curriculum. She asked the group to email her comments after reviewing the materials. Discussion on this will resume at the next meeting in July. The AOC is also planning to hold a “train-the-trainers” event where they would bring people together and train them to go out and present this curriculum themselves. Ideally they would like to create teams between counties/agencies and someone from the local tribal community to help present this curriculum.

- Lee Ann mentioned that Los Angeles County has asked, via the CDSS, for technical assistance from the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (Kathy Deserly). The state is provided a certain number of days of technical assistance per year from the various federal National Resource Centers (there are several). The technical assistance was approved and will include information relevant to counties that do not have an ICWA Unit as well, but that do serve urban populations where there may not be tribes in the county.
- Liz DeRouen asked for an update on what the Children’s Justice Act Taskforce has looked into as far as the protocols and any type of emergency response protocols as they relate to child abuse and the prevention of child abuse. Lee Ann and Liz sit on this taskforce that is administered through CalEMA. The taskforce developed protocols several years ago with counties around emergency services, such as involving law enforcement. They did some training, but the protocols are not very tribally oriented. The taskforce asked CDSS to do surveys to see if these protocols are still in place with the counties. Lee Ann will have Diana send these protocols to the workgroup.
- **Next Workgroup Meeting.** The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2010, and will be hosted by the Tule River Tribal in Porterville, CA.